BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 91-141-G - ORDER NO. 92-991

NOVEMBER 19, 1992

IN RE: Piedmont Natural Gas Company - )
Application for Adjustment in ) ORDER APPROVING
its Gas Rate Schedules and ) REFUND PROCEDURE
Tariffs. )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the November 9, 1992 letter of Piedmont Natural Gas Company (Piedmont or the Company) which proposes a plan to refund \$265,838, including interest, to Piedmont's customers receiving service under Rate Schedule 201.

On September 21, 1992, in Order No. 92-823, this Commission approved the September 14, 1992 Stipulation between Piedmont and the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the Consumer Advocate) in which it was agreed that the Company would make refunds of all bonded amounts collected from Rate Schedule 201 customers during the period beginning February 1, 1992 and ending September 30, 1992, plus interest at 12%. The Company now proposes to make a refund of \$265,838, including interest, to its Rate Schedule 201 customers during December 1992. The proposed procedure for the distribution of said refunds is as follows:

Beginning with the December 1992 cycle 1 bills and continuing through the remaining December cycles, a distribution of \$0.01040

per therm will be credited to all residential customers' accounts based on their consumption during the period from February 1, 1992 through September 30, 1992. For those inactive customers who have left forwarding addresses, Piedmont will issue a check when the customer's remaining refund exceeds \$3.00. December bills to customers receiving this distribution will include the message "PSC Ordered Refund." At the end of the refund period any money that is unrefunded will be recorded in the Piedmont's deferred Account No. 253 for future distribution to South Carolina customers.

The Commission has considered this procedure and believes that the provisions of the refund plan should be approved as stated in the Company's letter of November 9, 1992.

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Company shall refund all bonded amounts which have been collected from Rate Schedule 201 during the period beginning February 1, 1992 and ending September 30, 1992, plus interest at 12% during the month of December 1992 as proposed by the November 9, 1992 Piedmont letter.
- 2. That the refund shall be completed by December 31, 1992 and the following information provided to the Commission on or before January 31, 1993:
  - a. First date that refund procedures were started;
  - b. Date refund procedures were completed;
  - c. Total amount of refund broken down to separately show the interest and base refund.
  - d. Amount not refunded.

3. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Imy D-Jones

ATTEST:

Executive Director

(SEAL)